

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER
STRATEGIC PLAN**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of the State Public Defender is to ensure equal access to justice for the State's indigent and to provide appellate representation to indigent clients. The statewide public defender system, created by passage of The Montana Public Defender Act contained in Title 47, Montana Code Annotated, requires the new system to be operational by July 1, 2006.

The Public Defender Commission is responsible for the design, direction and supervision of the new system. The Commission appoints the chief public defender, approves the strategic plan for the delivery of services, approves statewide standards for qualifications and training of public defenders and approves the overall design of the new statewide system. The Act provides for a one-year transition period for these tasks to be completed.